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7/20/06

1 **RELATED APPLICATIONS**

2 This is a continuation of pending U.S. patent application serial number
3 09/421,986, entitled "System and Method for Hashing Digital Images," filed on
4 October 19, 1999, ^{PAT. No. 6,671,407}
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6 **TECHNICAL FIELD**

7 This invention relates to systems and methods for hashing digital bit
8 streams such as digital images. This invention further relates to database systems
9 and methods that utilize the hashing techniques for indexing bit streams and
10 protecting copyrights in the bit streams.
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12 **BACKGROUND**

13 Digital images offer many advantages over conventional media in terms of
14 image quality and ease of transmission. However, digital images consume large
15 amounts of memory space. With the ever increasing popularity of the Internet,
16 digital images have become a mainstay ingredient of the Web experience, buoyed
17 by such advances as the increasing speed at which data is carried over the Internet
18 and improvements in browser technology for rendering such images. Everyday,
19 numerous digital images are added to Web sites around the world.

20 As image databases grow, the needs for indexing them and protecting
21 copyrights in the images are becoming increasingly important. The next
22 generation of database management software will need to accommodate solutions
23 for fast and efficient indexing of digital images and protection of copyrights in
24 those digital images.
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